

COMMUNIQUÉ

5th AFRICAN YOUTH AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE, ACCRA 2013

Preamble

We, youth delegates from 35 African Countries and the Diaspora at the 5th African Youth and Governance Conference held at the Kofi Annan Peace Keeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana, from the 7th-9th of August, 2013, under the theme “**Youth Inclusive Governance: Harnessing Africa’s Demographic Potential**”, organized by the Youth Bridge Foundation;

Acknowledging the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the African Union (AU), under the theme “**Pan-Africanism and African renaissance**” welcomed youth from the African Diaspora and for the first time, European Youth Parliament (EYP) delegation;

Concerned about the continuous *marginalization of the majority* – the youth, as well as persons with disabilities (PWDs) in accessing quality education and employment at all levels of society and recognition in governance and major public decision making processes, and

Recognizing that Africa’s current demographic dynamics (growing youth population) presents both threats and opportunity for national and continental development.

Gathered to deliberate on youth **inclusive governance, education, unemployment and migration** issues through:

- I. A Youth Economic Forum that looked at the last leg of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Post 2015 MDG Agenda including the role of the youth as well as the African Vision 2063 Agenda;
- II. An African Diaspora Youth Summit that looked at among other things how countries can harness the resource potential (intellectual, financial, technical etc) of the African Diaspora for development;
- III. Youth Participation in Governance, discussing the establishment of National Youth Parliament envisaged in the African Youth Charter and future continental youth parliament by drawing on lessons and International collaboration with the European Youth Parliament (EYP); and,
- IV. Resource Bridge that looked at proposing strategies to address the development difficulties faced by youth including persons with disabilities in the four areas mentioned above.

With the belief that for Africa to reap the dividends of its demographic potential, smart investments by public and private actors in youth development in critical areas of education, health, economy and inclusive governance is imperative;

And building on the themes and outcomes of the AYG Conferences from 2009-2012;

Call on:

Youth

1. All youth in Africa and the Diaspora should show keen interest in, and make input into the country reports and positions on the Post 2015 MDG Agenda ahead of its signing.
2. The youth in Africa should support their governments to implement policies that will lead to the growth of their economies and refrain from actions such as civil wars, arms or drug trafficking, violence during elections among others that will negatively impact on the development of their countries.
3. Youth should identify and work towards addressing social challenges like food security, health and sanitation to create jobs.
4. The Youth should build networks and pursue entrepreneurial partnerships with peers and private sector.
5. The Youth should be committed to, and lead processes towards the formation of National Youth Parliaments in their respective countries.
6. Youth Bridge Foundation to lead the AYG Community on advocacy initiatives and collaboration with the European Youth Parliament (EYP) to deepen cooperation and exchange of ideas on continental and global development now and in the future.

African Governments

7. African leaders should recognize young people as partners in development rather than recipients of development by creating platforms for dialogue and engagement between youth and duty bearers at all levels
8. Translate their decisions and commitments on youth issues particularly their participation in governance by implementing the tenets of the African Youth Charter including the establishment of National Youth Parliaments in their respective countries by 2015.
9. Governments should review education polices and infrastructures to make it possible for Persons with Disability (PWDs) to access quality education at all levels.
10. National governments should develop country policies along the lines of the AU to create an enabling environment in order to harness the full potentials of Africans in the Diaspora for national and continental development.
11. To set up and make functional focal desks at foreign missions and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in homeland for reintegration of the African Diaspora.
12. National policy on migration should be developed and implemented by governments with regular orientation for young people who form the bulk of migrants.
13. Governments to set up non-partisan youth development funds to support young people with initiatives to develop their potential and grow their businesses

14. National governments should ensure that sustainable policies and measures are put in place for young people who do not progress to secondary and tertiary levels of education to be provided training and apprenticeship opportunities.
15. Educational policies should embrace Technical and Vocational education with particular focus on use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) as a crucial complement to training offered the youth.

African Union (AU)

16. The AU, working with national governments should take strong interest in getting developed countries to reduce the excessive and double taxation of remittances sent to Africa, which is one of the highest in the world.
17. Recognise that for the Africa Vision 2063 Agenda to materialize, the youth who represent about 65% of the continent's population should be seen as key drivers of the Agenda.
18. To Strengthen and adequately resource the Youth Desk at the AU with annual budgets to implement the Plan of Action of the 2009 declaration of Decade on Youth Development.
19. The African Union should develop participatory monitoring frameworks to enable public assessment of policies and measures for youth development including the milestones and targets set under the African Decade of the Youth Development (2009-2018) to make them have meaningful impact on the youth.

Corporate Africa

20. Private sector and other philanthropists should match national governments' Youth Development Funds with percentile contribution.
21. Should provide employment quotas for qualified PWDs to be employed at all levels.
22. Should address environmental issues as a tool for job creation.
23. Should support their communities with institutionalised attachment and internship programmes that will help build the capacity of young people for the world of work.
24. Reduce unfair labour practices such as the flagrant disregard of labour laws through an outsourcing approach with stringent policies that denies young people opportunity to have secured employment
25. Should partner with government agencies to establish funds to support entrepreneurship initiatives by young people.

Development Partners

26. The Post 2015 Agenda should not be limited to primary education but serious consideration be given to secondary and tertiary education in terms of access and quality.
27. The Post 2015 Agenda should make special provisions for youth-led initiatives and youth inclusive monitoring of milestones to strengthen governance and accountability.
28. Global development programs should not be delinked from national development planning.

Adopted in Ghana, Accra on Friday, August 9, 2013 at the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training, Teshie-Accra, Ghana

Distribution List

- Host Government, Government of Ghana (through the Ministry of Youth and Sports)
- National Youth Authority, Ghana
- African Union Commission
- Youth Desk, African Union
- Development Partners
- Diplomatic Missions in Ghana
- UNFPA
- UNDP
- UN ECOSOC
- UNESCO
- United Nations Millennium Campaign
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- All Media Houses
- All Delegates of the 2013 AYGC
- Corporate Institutions